

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/798,250

Examiner

Mr. Terry K. Cecil

Applicant(s)

WISEMAN ET AL.

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11-5-2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-33 which will remain as numbered upon allowance.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 32 has been amended as follows:

32. (Currently Amended) The gray-water reuse system as in claim 29, wherein said pressure valve is elongate and further comprises:

a first end and a second end, said first inlet port being generally positioned in a central portion of said pressure valve, said second inlet port being located generally adjacent to said second end of said pressure valve, said exit port being in said second end of said pressure valve, a stopper being slidably movable within said pressure valve, said stopper comprising a seal between said first and second inlet ports, said stopper having a biasing means thereon for biasing said stopper toward said second inlet port, said biasing means being a spring, said spring being coupled to a rod, said rod being rotatably inserted in said first end of said pressure valve, said rod being threaded;

a first pipe having a first end being fluidly coupled to said first inlet port and a second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first pipe second end being positioned between said first valve and said first one-way valve;

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a second pipe having a first end being fluidly coupled to said fresh water inlet and a second end being fluidly coupled to said second inlet port; and

a third pipe having a first end being fluidly coupled to said exit port and a second end being fluidly coupled to said gray-water outlet, said first one-way valve being between said first and third pipes, said third pipe having a second one-way valve such that fluid traveling through said third pipe travels in a first direction from said third pipe first end toward said third pipe second end.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- For claims 18-22 and 29-33, the closest cited art—McDonald et al (U.S. 5,317,766) and Johnson, Jr. (U.S. 5,845,346)—fail to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the described pressure stabilizing means that is adapted to allow the flow of fresh water in the event the solenoid fails to open the plug—within the systems of claims 18 and 29.
 - For claims 12-17 and 23-28, the closest cited art—Johnson, Jr. (U.S. 5,845,346)—fails to anticipate or render obvious, alone or in any proper combination, the first valve having a first plug positioned between a middle section and a first end coupled to the pumping means and a second plug that is positioned between the middle section coupled to a grey water outlet and a second end coupled to a fresh water inlet, wherein the second plug is moved by a solenoid actuator to allow the flow of fresh water to the gray water outlet whenever a pressure sensing means within the first valve indicates the pressure of the gray water has fallen--within the systems of claims 12, 17, 23 and 28.

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- Note that no supplemental reissue oath was required as this Examiner's amendment corrects only grammar.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee.

Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mr. Terry K. Cecil whose telephone number is (571) 272-1138. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a-4:30p M-F..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Sample can be reached on (571) 272-1376. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mr. Terry K. Cecil/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797

TKC